

DARRELL AKINS APPOINTED TO OAK RIDGE SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Oak Ridge resident brings years of public service experience to Board

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced the appointment of Darrell Akins to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. The Board is a federally-chartered citizens' panel that provides recommendations on DOE's Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program.

Akins is the co-owner of AkinsCrisp Public Strategies -- a 20-year-old strategic communications firm founded in 1989 with offices in Oak Ridge; Nashville; Huntsville, Alabama; and Washington, D.C.

Akins is a 1972 graduate of The University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration. A U.S. Army veteran, he began his professional career on the staff of Knoxville Mayor Kyle Testerman and then as a vice president of the Bank of Maryville. In 1979, he joined the administration of Governor Lamar Alexander as Deputy Commissioner of Human Services and then as Deputy Commissioner of Transportation. He was appointed to the Governor's Cabinet as Commissioner of Personnel.

Following his state service, he became chief executive officer of the Greater Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, where he organized efforts to achieve regional cooperation in economic development in the Knoxville-Oak Ridge region.

"Darrell has a wealth of experience to offer based on his years of public service," said Gerald Boyd, Manager, of DOE's Oak Ridge Office. "We thank him for his willingness to serve on our Advisory Board and contribute toward the Oak Ridge Office's continuing progress in environmental cleanup on the Oak Ridge Reservation."

Akins' contributions to East Tennessee are respected through his service to many non-profit and community groups in the region. He is a lifetime member of the Florence Crittenton Agency of Knoxville and was named Southeast U.S. Volunteer of the Year by the Child Welfare League of America. He currently chairs the Roane County United Way, is vice chair for government relations for the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, and is on the boards of Tech 2020, East Tennessee Economic Council, and the Anderson/Roane County Advisory Board of SunTrust Bank.

An Oak Ridge resident, he and wife Deborah have two children: Rachel, a University of Tennessee graduate with a master's degree in social work who serves as development director for Samaritan Inns in Washington, D.C., and Harrison, a graduate of American University who is pursuing his master's degree at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the DOE Information Center located at 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge.

Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public, and notices are posted on the board's web site: www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.

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